

Remarks

In the specification, paragraphs [0075], [0077], [0085] and [0089] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems.

In amended Fig. 1, previously omitted "10" has been added.

Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to correct dependency. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is overcome.

Regarding the art rejections, these are discussed in an order that most expeditiously simplifies the issues.

1) Applicant hereby represents that the present application as well as U.S. Patents Nos. 5,830,333, 6,523,493 and 6,652,711, were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by the assignee of the present application. Of these:

a) U.S. Patent No. 6,652,711 can qualify as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of title 35 of the U.S. Code. This reference has been applied under 102(e). Accordingly, rejections of claims 14, 16-18, 32, and 34-36 under section 103(a) are overcome based on this reference. 35 U.S.C. 103(c).

b) U.S. Patent No. 6,523,493 can qualify as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of title 35 of the U.S. Code. This reference has been applied under 102(e). Accordingly, rejections of claims 14, 16-18, 32, and 34-36 under section 103(a) are overcome based on this reference. 35 U.S.C. 103(c). However, applicant points out that corresponding PCT application no. PCT/US01/23752 was published on February 7, 2002, fifteen days before the filing of the present application, but has not been applied. Should this PCT reference be applied, applicant reserves the right to submit proof of a date of invention that would eliminate this reference. It is submitted that this is not necessary at the present time in view of other reasons stated below for overcoming this reference.

2) Applicant is the sole inventor and sole applicant of U.S. Patent No. 6,523,493. A declaration by the inventor of this application under 37 CFR 1.132 is submitted herewith showing that any invention disclosed but not claimed in that patent is his invention or was derived from him. This eliminates this patent as a reference and overcomes the rejections of claims 1-3, 7-10, 14, 15, 21-23, 25-28, 32 and 33 under 35 USC 102(e) or 103(a). It would also overcome any rejection under 35 USC 102(a) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,523,493 or its PCT, if applied.

3) Independent claims 1, 7 and 21, as amended, include recitations of a baffle having an electrically conductive body having a window side and a plasma side; the body having plurality of slots extending therethrough between the sides thereof; the slots having walls defined by surfaces of the body and are configured to block line-of-sight paths through the body for particles in the chamber moving from the plasma side of the body to the window side of the body; and a plurality of the slots each having a structural element therein fixed to the body between opposite surfaces thereof on substantially only one of said sides of the body. In addition:

a) U.S. Patent No. 6,652,711 does not have slots having an element therein between opposite surfaces of the slot. The element 79 of Fig. 1D of that patent is provided to block line-of-site paths as an alternative to the chevron shaped slots of Fig. 1D. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-2, 7-9, 15, 21-23, 25-28 and 33 under 35 USC 102(e) are overcome.

b) U.S. Patent No. 6,033,585 to Wicker et al. shows slots that begin at the edge of a body and extend continuously until they terminate. These slots have no element therein fixed to the body between opposite surfaces thereof on substantially only one of said sides of the body. If one were to consider different slots that are aligned to be extensions of the same slot with the intervening body material as a structural element as claimed by applicant, such an element is not "on substantially only one of said sides (window side or plasma side) of the body. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-10, 14, 15, 21-23, 25-28 and 32-33 under 35 USC 103(a) based on Wicker et al and Drewery et al. are overcome.

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Application No. 10/080,496
Amendment dated May 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2004

For the reasons stated above, claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-18, 21-23, 25-28 and 32-36, as amended, are allowable, and an early allowance is respectfully requested.

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Further, the claims withdrawn as claiming non-elected species are now dependent on allowable claims, and these too should be allowed. Should the examiner determine otherwise, applicant will cancel any claims that remain withdrawn from examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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